Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SCS-03 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 PC-01 AGRE-00 NASA-01 LAB-04 DOTE-00 INT-05 SCA-01 PPT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 PER-01 A-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /103 W

O 041017Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5847
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, KE, TZ

SUBJECT: TANZANIA CLOSES BORDER WITH KENYA

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0516

1. EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED INFORMATION REFTEL FROM SEVERAL NAIROBI-BASED TOUR OPERATORS. BEGINNING EVENING FEBRUARY 3, TANZANIAN POLICE HAVE IMPOUNDED KENYA-REGISTERED VEHICLES AT THE BORDER AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO CROSS BACK INTO KENYA. IN AT LEAST ONE CASE, KENYA-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN IMPOUNDED (AT LAKE MANYARA LANDING STRIP). LARGEST TOUR OPERATOR HAS 40 VEHICLES CURRENTLY IN TANZANIA; TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES AFFECTED PROBABLY NUMBERS SEVERAL HUNDRED.

2. THIS ACTION IS OBVIOUSLY RETALIATION FOR DEMISE OF EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS, WHICH TANZANIANS HAVE BLAMED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KENYA. MOST OF EAA ASSETS ARE GROUNDED IN KENYA, ALTHOUGH ONE DC-9 AND 2 F-27'S ARE IN TANZANIA.

3. NUMEROUS AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE REPORTED STRANDED BY TANZANIAN ACTION, FOR EXAMPLE, 30-MEMBER TOUR OF AMHERST ALUMNI. TOUR COMPANIES ARE EXPLORING WAYS TO HIRE TRANSPORTATION FOR THEIR CLIENTS TO BORDER, BUT

WE HAVE ONE REPORT FROM TOUR OPERATOR THAT REGIONAL POLICE COMMANDER IN ARUSHA HAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO CROSS BORDER TO STRANDED TOURISTS.

4. USAID/REDSO REPORTS THEY HAVE ONE JEEP WITH KENYA DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES CURRENTLY IN MWANZA, TANZANIA DRIVEN BY LOCAL EMPLOYEE (ASIAN RESIDENT OF KENYA, BRITISH PASSPORT HOLDER).

5. WE ARE ADVISING STRANDED AMERICANS TO CONTACT USAID REGIONAL OFFICE IN ARUSHA PER PARA 2 REFTEL.

DECON 1/1/78 MARSHALL

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